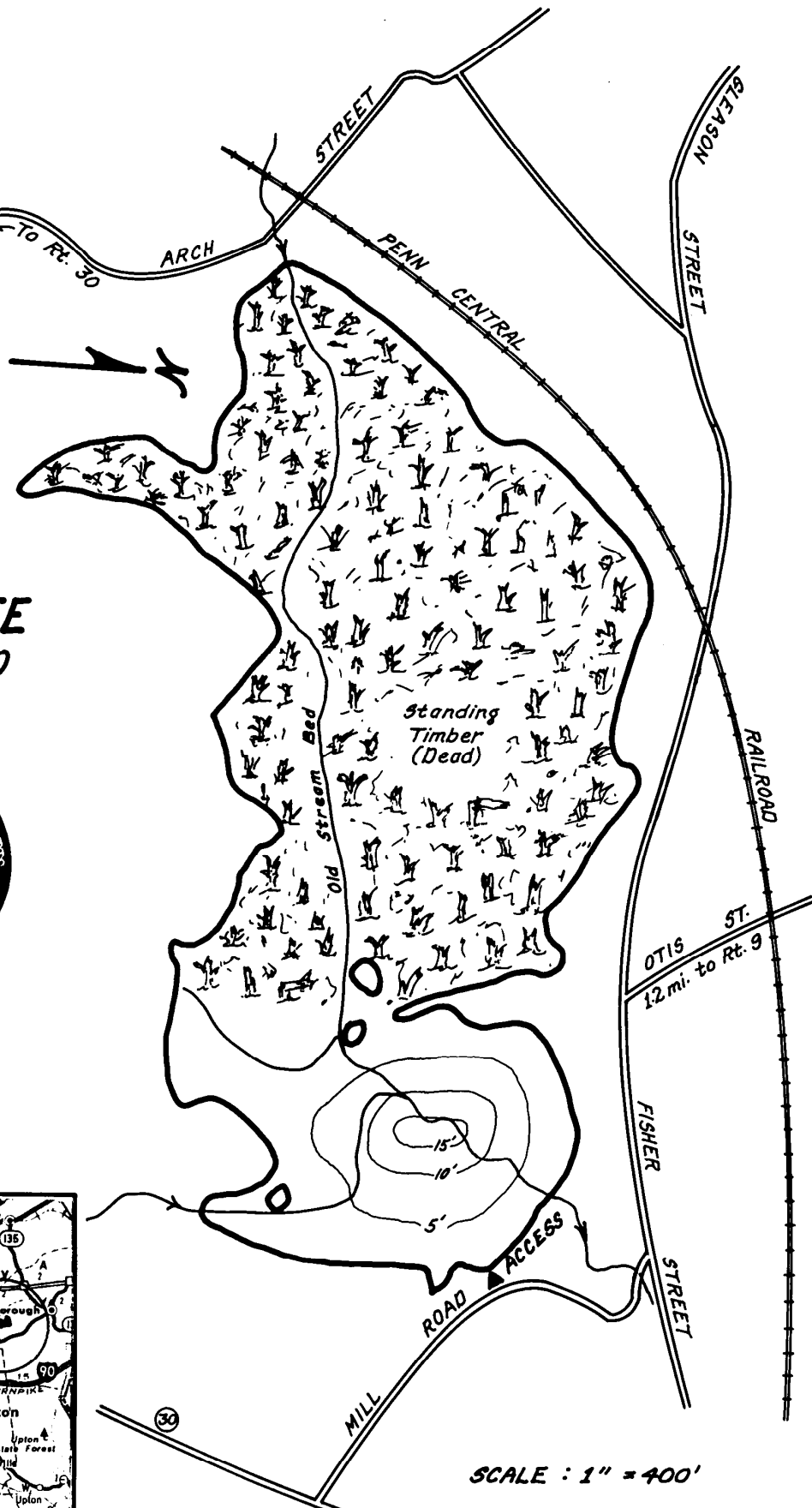
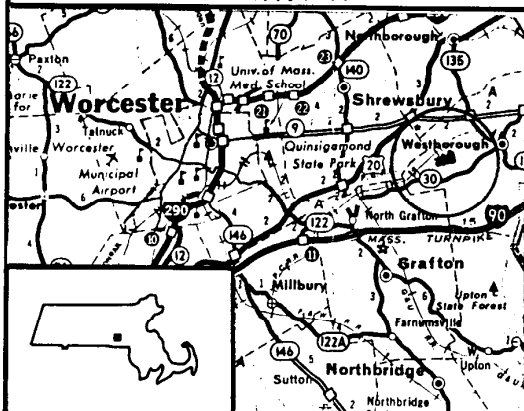


A-1 SITE
WESTBORO
 325.0 Ac.



LOCATION



A-1 SITE (Westboro)

General Information:

This 325 acre warmwater pond, sometimes called "Stump Pond," is located a half mile southwest of Westboro center off Mill Road. Here an informal asphalt ramp is suitable for the launching of canoes and small boats. There is ample parking on both sides of the road for approximately 20 vehicles.

Characterized by brown, fertile water, this pond has an average depth of about three feet with a maximum of 15 feet. Impounded by the George H. Nichols Dam, the A-1 Site constitutes the headwaters of the Assabet River. Trees, stumps and other organic matter was not removed before flooding commenced, and these provide exceptional hiding cover for fish, especially largemouth bass. This pond once supported a large great blue heron rookery (and our only inland osprey nest), but most of these birds have dispersed to nest elsewhere as the dead standing timber has decayed and fallen.

Fish Populations:

A fish sampling operation in June of 1980 revealed a total of eight species. Listed in order of abundance, the sample was comprised of golden shiners, brown bullhead, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, largemouth bass, black crappie, white sucker and white catfish. Sampling was extremely difficult because of the dark water color, excessive brush and tree stumps. Tiger muskies and northern pike have been stocked here dating back to 1988, and will continue to be stocked when available.

Fishing:

For the fisherman looking for a unique and challenging pond for bass fishing, the A-1 Site is it. In fact, in terms of both quantity and average size, this is undoubtedly one of the most productive largemouth bass waters in the state. Fish in the 3 to 5 pound range are common. As you would expect, fishing pressure is heavy throughout the year.

Except for the small open water area near the dam, one is confronted by a maze of fallen trees and submerged stumps, brush and root systems; considerable skill in handling a small boat (or preferably a canoe) is necessary. Take care in navigating this section to avoid capsizing or damaging prop blades. Better yet, leave the power motor at home and stick with an electric motor or a paddle.

Best results bass fishing are obtained with top water plugs, weedless-rigged soft plastic baits or the famous "jig 'n' pig" jig and porkrind frog combination. Weedless lures are a necessity due to the huge amount of timber in the water. Ice fishermen using golden shiners for bait also do well on bass, and occasionally account for a trophy tiger muskie or northern pike.

February 1998